

American Fern Society**Report of the Spore Exchange, 1960**

The activities of the spore exchange, consisting of receiving and filing contributions of spores and of filling requests for them, seem to follow a seasonal pattern, the peak load coming in the fall when spores in most of the country have recently ripened and folks are returning from summer vacations. The next busiest time is in early winter—no doubt when things are being cleared away and put in order after the Christmas rush is over. The period of least activity is in the spring, although people in warm places and those who have greenhouses may request or send in spores at any time. Letters and replies go on more or less all the year. In 1960 there were many more of these than in the previous year, considerably over a hundred.

As to spores, 146 packets were received from 27 kind members and of these about 40 were species new to our list, already numbering 239 kinds available to members. During the year, 1,173 packets were sent to 48 members requesting them.

At the present time, our supply of mimeographed lists of available spores is exhausted. A new revised and up-to-date list is planned for the fall of 1961; it will be sent to any who in the past two years have shown interest in the exchange either by inquiries or by contributions or requests for spores. It will be sent also to any member of the Society requesting one.

In order to make this new list as inclusive as the last, an urgent request is made to all members to send in spores or fertile fronds by September 10 or sooner. Even if the ferns you have or the ferns you see on your trips seem to you too common, remember they are not common in another part of the country or the world. We have a good many requests, now, from other countries. Also, even if you have sent the same ones before, remember the supplies must be kept fresh each year and many species with spores that are now two years old will have to be dropped from the present list.

Preparing a new spore list is a task requiring a considerable

amount of time, and so if it is to reach you in the fall, spores *must* be on hand in earliest September. Your cooperation in this will be sincerely appreciated.

Before closing this report a more or less personal note should be added. Because of other full time commitments from October 15 through Christmas, it will be impossible for letters to be answered or spore requests filled during that time. It was a source of real concern when this proved true in 1960, and many letters of apology had to be written in January.

So, please, your spore contributions before September 10 and your spore requests before October 15. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
KATHRYN E. BOYDSTON,
Fernwood, Route 3, Niles, Michigan

CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN FERN SOCIETY, INC.¹

ARTICLE I. NAME

Section 1. The name of this society shall be THE AMERICAN FERN SOCIETY, INCORPORATED.

ARTICLE II. OBJECTS

Section 1. The objects of the Society shall be to affiliate those who are interested in the study of ferns and allied plants, to foster such an interest, to encourage correspondence and exchange of specimens between members, and the publication of matter pertaining to this group of plants.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any person interested in the objects of the Society shall be eligible to membership.

Section 2. Application for membership accompanied by the required fee of two dollars and fifty cents may be made at any time to the Secretary, and when so received, approved by two members of the Council, and acknowledged, the applicant shall be considered a member for the current year.

Section 3. The admission fee shall be two dollars and fifty cents payable when application for membership is made. This fee shall also constitute the dues for the current year.

Section 4. The annual dues shall be two dollars and fifty cents, payable on January first of each year. Sustaining membership is credited to any person upon the annual payment of five dollars.

Section 5. Any eligible person may become a life member on payment, at any one time, of a fee of fifty dollars, and shall thereafter be subject to no dues nor assessments. All such fees shall be held and invested as a permanent fund, the principal of which shall not be expended, but the income from which may be used for the purposes of the Society on vote of the Council. Contributions for the purpose and other available moneys may be added to this fund at the discretion of the Council.

Section 6. Honorary members may be chosen when unanimously nominated by the Council, and their names submitted to the members at the next succeeding annual election. Three-fourths of the votes cast on the question shall be required for election, and the total number cast must

¹ As amended by the membership at the annual elections of 1935, 1936, 1940, 1947, 1949, 1954, and 1958.